

STEVE SCALISE  
1ST DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

REPUBLICAN WHIP  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1801

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1801  
(202) 225-3015

111 VETERANS MEMORIAL BLVD, SUITE 803  
METAIRIE, LA 70005  
(504) 837-1259

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MANDEVILLE, LA 70471  
(985) 893-9064

8026 MAIN STREET, SUITE 700  
HOUMA, LA 70360  
(985) 879-2300

1514 MARTENS DRIVE, SUITE 10  
HAMMOND, LA 70401  
(985) 340-2185

October 5, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write in support of a request made by Governor John Bel Edwards and numerous local officials in Louisiana that will greatly increase our state's ability to fully recover from Hurricane Ida.

Specifically, I am asking that you grant a 45-day extension for 100 percent federal cost share for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including all direct Federal assistance, as requested by Governor Edwards and all affected Parish Presidents. As I visited this week with local leaders in some of the hardest hit areas, the sheer magnitude of the hurricane debris is still visible throughout the entire area, and the slow process of debris removal is impeding the recovery and warrants this extension to ensure that the communities of South Louisiana can quickly and fully recover from this disaster.

Please find attached to this letter both the requests made from Governor Edwards on September 15, 2021, as well as the request from Parish Presidents dated October 2, 2021.

I appreciate your swift consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
and Emergency Preparedness**  
State of Louisiana

**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR



**JAMES B. WASKOM**  
DIRECTOR

DIR-2021-0915-089

September 15, 2021

David Bibo  
Acting Associate Administrator  
Office of Response and Recovery  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Through: John E. Long  
Federal Coordinating Officer  
FEMA Region VI  
FRC 800 North Loop 288  
Denton, Texas 76209-3698

Re: DR-4611 Increased Federal Cost Share Extension Request

Dear Mr. Bibo:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, Louisiana asked for and was approved to receive a 30-day period with 100% federal cost share for emergency work (Public Assistance Categories A and B). That approval greatly enhanced the state's and local governments' ability to initiate their response efforts, and I urge FEMA to consider again my request to extend the period for another 60 days for that incident. As a result of the positive results from the 30-day approval granted for Hurricane Laura, Louisiana included a request for a 30-day 100% federal cost share in its initial request for a major disaster declaration for Hurricane Ida dated August 29, 2021. FEMA's swift approval of that request for Hurricane Ida has greatly incentivized local governments to promptly execute their debris operations in addition to their emergency protective measures.

Those emergency protective measures and debris operations continue in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. The State experienced power outages for over a million residents immediately after the storm due to the historic numbers of broken poles, downed spans

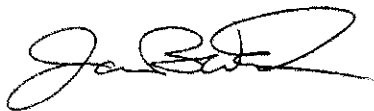
of line, and broken transformers. Accessibility problems associated with flooding and widespread blockages of roads across the southeastern portion of the state challenged responders attempting to provide life-saving measures. USACE initial estimates indicate that there are over 20 million cubic yards of debris, with that amount certain to go higher. There is also an ongoing need for emergency protective measures due to the prolonged impacts of sheltering impacted citizens, as well as critical workers (many of whose homes were also impacted), feeding initiatives, power restoration and other measures necessary to address the stabilization of property.

The financial and economic hardships brought by Hurricane Ida and its associated clean-up burden have become untenable for the State and communities alike. While Louisiana greatly appreciates the immediate approval of the 30-day period, the fact that it began at the onset of the incident period means that the State and local governments will not be able to fully realize the financial benefits of the increased cost share because of lengthened response period and the sheer magnitude of debris removal activities. Even in the best of circumstances, debris operations cannot commence until the storm has passed, roads can be cleared, and assets can be mobilized to hard-hit areas. Due to the widespread damage from Hurricane Ida, as well as the extended length of time associated with restoring power, many areas were unable to mobilize their debris contractors until a week or more after the storm passed. To add to these difficulties, Tropical Storm Nicholas is now approaching Louisiana. This system is bringing heavy rain and risks of flash flooding, which delay the current debris operations and other emergency protective measures.

To offer relief and ensure that these priority operations continue in hard-hit communities across Louisiana, we request that FEMA exercise its broad authority to implement 100% federal assistance for both category A and category B costs for an additional period of 60 days for a total of 90 days. We would also request similar consideration for the outstanding request to extend the 100% assistance for a 60-day period for Hurricane Laura.

We appreciate the previous approval and the assistance we have received from FEMA to date in the recovery from Hurricane Ida. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James B. Waskom', with a stylized, cursive script.

James B. Waskom  
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

October 2, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

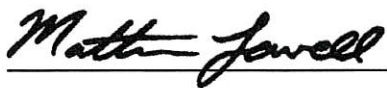
On August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana as a devastating Category 4 hurricane. The destruction caused by Hurricane Ida has left many Parishes in complete ruin. As of today, numerous Americans are still without shelter, electricity, and running water. Additionally, issues from poor connectivity to communications infrastructure and inclement weather continue to slow the response by local governments.

As you witnessed during your visit to Louisiana, Hurricane Ida caused extensive roof damage and flooding across Southeast Louisiana, producing millions of cubic yards of debris. While local governments are working as fast as possible, limited resources and supply chain issues will slow the debris removal process.

We are asking for your support in extending the period of 100 percent Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including all direct Federal assistance for an additional 45 days, expiring on November 24, 2021 (FEMA-4611-DR-LA).

We appreciate your consideration of this essential Declaration. With your support, we are confident that this request will be accepted.

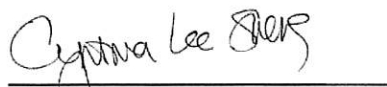
Respectfully,



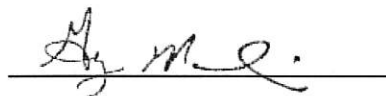
Matthew Jewell  
St. Charles Parish President



Kirk Lepine  
Plaquemines Parish President



Cynthia Lee Sheng  
Jefferson Parish President



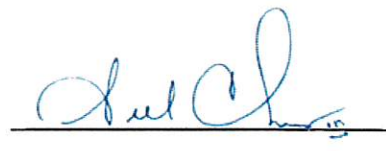
Guy Mcinnis  
St. Bernard Parish President



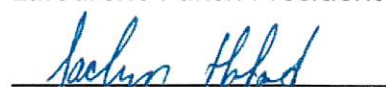
Pete Dufrene  
St. James Parish President



Clint Cointment  
Ascension Parish President



Archie Chaisson  
Lafourche Parish President



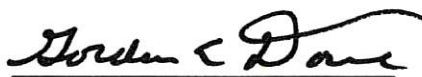
Jaclyn Hotard  
St. John the Baptist Parish President



Mike Cooper  
St. Tammany Parish President



LaToya Cantrell  
Mayor of New Orleans



Gordan Dove  
Terrebonne Parish President

CC/

Cedric Richmond

Secretary Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell

GOSHEP Director Jim Waksom

Governor John Bel Edwards

Senator Bill Cassidy

Senator John Kennedy

Congressman Steve Scalise

Congressman Troy Carter

Congressman Clay Higgins

Congressman Mike Johnson

Congresswoman Julia Letlow

Congressman Garrett Graves